## State of Texas House of Representatives



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February 11, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 Twelfth Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT 02-55 (Public Safety Interference in the 800 MHz Band)

## Dear Chairman Powell,

As state representative for District 54 I am responsible for the welfare of more than 140,000 residents and the public safety offices that protect them. I sit on both the Law Enforcement and Appropriations Committees and have heard first-hand testimony on the hardships that law enforcement officers have with radio interference and it's effect on their ability to provide crucial support to their communities. Without clear, reliable communications, the safety of first responders, and the people they protect are at risk.

It is alarming to know that for more than two years, interference in the 800 MHz band has impeded first responders with garbled, lost and dropped calls. The Commission has pledged to the police, fire and EMS personnel across the country that resolving interference was of highest priority. I hope that you and your fellow Commissioners listen to public safety and implement the Consensus Flan.

We are fortunate a tragedy has not yet occurred due to communications failures. Please do not wait until something happens. We need action now. We need the Consensus Plan.

Representative Suzanna Gratia Hupp Texas House of Representatives

District 54

CC:

Commissioner Abemathy Commissioner Adelstein Commissioner Copps Commissioner Martin